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FCC ANNOUNCES GSA'S APPROVAL OF THE RENEWAL OF THE NORTH AMERICAN NUMBERING COUNCIL CHARTER THROUGH SEPTEMBER 25, 2011

(CC Docket No. 92-237)

The General Services Administration (GSA) has renewed the charter of the North American Numbering Council (NANC or Council) through September 25, 2011. The Council will continue to advise the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) on rapidly evolving and competitively significant numbering issues facing the telecommunications industry.

In October 1995, the Commission established the NANC, a federal advisory committee created pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C., App. 2 (1988), to advise the Commission on issues related to North American Numbering Plan (NANP) administration in the United States. The original charter of the Council was effective on October 5, 1995, establishing an initial two-year term. Amended charters were filed on October 5, 1997, October 5, 1999, October 5, 2001, October 5, 2003, September 26, 2005, and September 27, 2007, each renewing the term of the charter for an additional two years.

Since the last charter renewal, the Council has provided the Commission with critically important recommendations regarding number administration, such as the recommendation regarding the assignment of geographic numbers from the NANP and a central database to support interoperability for Internet-based relay services. In addition, the Council reviewed and recommended technical requirements for a request for proposals associated with a new North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA) contract. The Council also provided detailed evaluations of the current NANPA, the Pooling Administrator (PA), and the Billing and Collection (B&C) Agent. The Council will continue to evaluate the performances of the NANPA, the PA and the B&C Agent on an annual basis. Moreover, the Council is presently considering and formulating recommendations on other important numbering-related issues that will require work beyond the term of the present charter.

The value of this federal advisory committee to the telecommunications industry and to the American public cannot be overstated. Telephone numbers are the means by which consumers gain access to, and reap the benefits of, the public switched telephone network. The Council's recommendations to the Commission will facilitate fair and efficient number administration in the United States, and will ensure that numbering resources are available to all telecommunications service providers on a fair and equitable basis, consistent with the requirements of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Deborah Blue, Special Assistant to the Designated Federal Officer at (202) 418-1466 or <u>Deborah.Blue@fcc.gov</u>. The address is: Competition Policy Division, Wireline Competition Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, 445 Twelfth Street, SW, Room 5-C162, Washington, DC 20554. The fax number is: (202) 418-1413. The TTY number is: (202) 418-0484.

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CHARTER FOR THE NORTH AMERICAN NUMBERING COUNCIL

1. The Committee's Official Designation

The official designation of this advisory committee will be the "North American Numbering Council" (NANC or Council).

2. Authority

The NANC is hereby renewed at the direction of the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) and in accordance with the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) as amended, 5 U.S.C., App.

3. The Committee's Objectives and Scope of its Activity

The purpose of the Council is to advise the Commission and to make recommendations, reached through consensus, that foster efficient and impartial North American Numbering Plan (NANP) administration. The Council will advise the Commission on numbering policy and technical issues, initially resolve disputes as directed by the Commission, and provide guidance to the North American Numbering Plan Administrator (NANPA), the Local Number Portability Administrator (LNPA), and the Pooling Administrator (PA) as directed by the Commission.

In carrying out its responsibilities, the Council shall assure that NANP administration supports the following policy objectives: (1) that the NANP facilitates entry into the communications marketplace by making numbering resources available on an efficient, timely basis to communications service providers; (2) that the NANP does not unduly favor or disfavor any particular industry segment or group of consumers; (3) that the NANP does not unduly favor one technology over another; (4) that the NANP gives consumers easy access to the public switched telephone network; and (5) that the NANP ensures that the interests of all NANP member countries are addressed fairly and efficiently, fostering continued integration of the NANP across NANP member countries.

4. Description of the Duties for Which the Committee is Responsible

The general duties of the Council are to gather and discuss information necessary to develop recommendations to the Commission related to the attainment of the objectives stated under (3). Under the direction of the Commission, the Council will provide oversight of matters relating to numbering administration, including the development of industry guidelines. Specific duties will include developing and recommending technical requirements for the selection of neutral third-party numbering administrators (*e.g.*, NANPA, LNPA). To aid the Commission in its oversight responsibilities, the Council will also prepare periodic and final reports for the Commission. The Council serves the Commission in an advisory capacity only.

5. Official to Whom the Committee Reports

The Council will report to the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission through the Chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau.

6. Support

The Commission will provide the necessary staff support for the Council and the facilities needed to conduct meetings. If the Commission does not have meeting facilities available, private sector members will provide facilities. Private sector members of the Council will serve without any government compensation and will not be entitled to travel expenses or per diem subsistence allowances.

7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs in Dollars and Staff Years

The estimated Commission staff dedicated to the Council is the equivalent of 1.7 full time employees. The estimated annual cost to the Commission of operating the Committee is \$244,000. The Commission will not pay for private sector staff.

8. <u>Designated Federal Officer</u>

A full-time or permanent part-time employee, appointed by the Chairman of the Commission, will serve as the Designated Federal Officer (DFO). The DFO will approve or call all of the advisory committee's meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all committee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the DFO determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the Chairman of the Commission or the Chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau.

9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Committee Meetings

We expect that there will be approximately six Council meetings per year.

10. Duration

The Commission will review the accomplishments and activities of the Council to determine whether, after two years, this charter should again be renewed and the Council should continue as a Federal Advisory Committee.

11. Termination

This charter will terminate two years from the Filing Date of this charter, prior to which the Commission may seek its renewal.

12. Membership and Designation

Members of the Council will be appointed by the Chairman of the Commission in consultation with appropriate Commission staff. Members will be selected to balance the expertise and viewpoints that are necessary to address effectively the issues to be considered by the Council. Members will represent various sectors of the telecommunications industry, as well as North American Numbering Plan member countries, state regulators, and consumers. Industry representatives will be selected from local exchange carriers, wireless carriers, equipment manufacturers, cable service providers, and industry trade associations.

Members will be appointed in a representative capacity as representatives of the telecommunications industry, or as representatives of consumers of telecommunications. Council members will not serve as "Special Government Employees."

13. Subcommittees

Subcommittees of the NANC may be created by the Commission. The Chairpersons of any subcommittees shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the NANC, with the approval of the Chairman of the Commission or the Chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau. Recommendations of subcommittees must be reported to the Council as a whole, and only as modified or ratified by the Council as a whole, may such recommendations be included in the official record of the Council's proceedings, and reported to the Chairman of the Commission or the Chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau.

14. Recordkeeping

Records of the proceedings will be kept, as required by applicable laws and regulations. All records of the Council, formally and informally established subcommittees, or other subgroups of the Council, shall be handled in accordance with General Records Schedule 26, Item 2 or other approved agency records disposition schedule. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552.

15. Filing Date

September 25, 2009

NORTH AMERICAN NUMBERING COUNCIL (NANC) Federal Advisory Committee September 2009

Designated Federal Officer (DFO)

Marilyn Jones

Special Assistant to the DFO

Deborah J. Blue

Alternate DFO

Michelle Sclater

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